

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 AID-05 DHA-05 /099 W
-----027631 240524Z /14

R 231518Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5356
INFO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5091

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, ET
SUBJECT: REPORTS OF SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL DEFLECTIONS ON LEFT

REF: A) ADDIS ABABA A-78 B) ADDIS ABABA 3232 C) ADDIS ABABA 4207

SUMMARY: JULY 14 REORGANIZATION OF PROVISIONAL OFFICE OF MASS ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS (POMOA) HAS CAUSED POWER STRUGGLE OVER CONTROL OF CIVILIAN POLITICS TO REACH DECISIVE STAGE. RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED THAT DURING PAST WEEKEND (AUG 20-21) PROMINENT ALL-ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION (AESO) MEMBERS, INCLUDING TWO CABINET MINISTERS, FLED ADDIS ABABA. SOURCE ALSO STATED ALL AESO CADRES WORKING IN WOLLEGA PROVINCE ABANDONED THEIR POSTS ABOUT WEEK AGO. SOURCE FURTHER CLAIMED PERSONNEL REALIGNMENT WITHIN POMOA COMPLETED EARLY AUGUST, WHILE CHANGES CONTINUING AT POLITICAL IDEOLOGY SCHOOL. RECENT INCREASE OF GUNFIRE HEARD DURING EVENING PREVIOUS WEEK ALSO BEING ATTRIBUTED TO CONFRONTATION WITHIN HERETOFORE PMAC-SANCTIONED LEFTIST GROUPS. END SUMMARY.

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1. WHILE RUMORS HAVE PERSISTED SINCE MENGISTU RETURN FROM MOSCOW IN MAY THAT RIVALRY BETWEEN AESO (ME'I SONE) AND REVOLUTIONARY FLAME (SEDED), TWO OF FIVE PMAC-SANCTIONED MARXIST-LENINIST GROUPS HAD INTENSIFIED GREATLY, CLEAREST EVIDENCE OF FACT SINCE JULY 14 REORGANIZATION OF POMOA OCCURRED PAST WEEKEND. AMONG PROMINENT AESO MEMBERS WHICH RELIABLE SOURCE CLAIMS FLED ADDIS ABABA ARE: MIN OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC

WORKS DANIEL TADESSE (MINISTRY CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICIZING AND ORGANIZING KEBELES), MIN OF EDUCATION TEREFE WOLDE-TSADIG (FORMER IDEOLOGY SCHOOL DIRECTOR AND "POLITBURO" MEMBER), PERMSEC MIN OF CULTURE AND YOUTH DESTA TADESSE (DANIEL'S BROTHER AND AESO MEMBER), FIVE MIN HOUSING DEPT HEADS, POSSIBLY HAILE FIDA (FORMER POMOA CHAIRMAN) AND SOME OTHER INSPECIFIED FORMER POMOA MEMBERS ASSOCIATED WITH AESO. SOURCE ALSO STATED ALL POMOA CADRES FROM WOLLEGA PROVINCE, PERHAPS AS MANY AS 30-40, WHO ALLEGEDLY AESO MEMBERS, ABANDONED THEIR POSTS ABOUT WEEK AGO.

2. IN EARLY AUGUST PMAC COMPLETED REORGANIZATION OF POMOA BY REDUCING CENTRAL LEADERSHIP TO GIVE MEMBERS, ONE FROM EACH MARXIST-LENINIST GROUP, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE MILITARY MAN AND RECENTLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF IDEOLOGY SCHOOL, ANDARGATCHEW ASEGID. IN SO DOING, PMAC HAS REDUCED POMOA TO MERE RUBBER STAMP OF PMAC UNDER PMAC SECGEN CONTROL. FEW OF FORMER POMOA LEADERS LIKELY TO REMAIN IN ADDIS, AND IT EXPECTED THAT OTHERS HERE ASSOCIATED WITH AESO MAY BE FORCED TO FLEE.

3. DURING PAST WEEK LEVEL OF NIGHTLY GUNFIRE HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, FOLLOWING ISSUE OF ADDITIONAL WEAPONS TO KEBELES (ADDIS 4985) WITH SOME OF THIS WAS RESULT OF TRYING OUT NEW WEAPONS, BUT MANY SOURCES SPECULATING MAIN CAUSE TO BE STRUGGLE BETWEEN AESO AND REVOLUTIONARY FLAME FOR CONTROL
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OF KEBELES. CITY-WIDE RALLY SCHEDULED FOR AUG 24 EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON PATRIOTIC GOALS, BUT MAY ALSO GIVE SOME HINTS OF CIVILIAN POWER STRUGGLE.

4. COMMENT: PMAC'S OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTIONARY FLAME AGAINST AESO HAS BECOME ALL TOO APPARENT TO AESO LEADERS, WHO APPEAR TO BE DRAWING INEVITABLE CONCLUSIONS AS REGARDS THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY. AESO DEFECTIONS MAY SIGNAL END OF LAST CIVILIAN LEFTIST SUPPORT FOR PMAC AND COULD CAUSE IT TO MODERATE ITS RECENT MARXIST-LENIST STANCE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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